GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4972
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
CONVEY OF INDIA`S CONCERN TO NEPAL
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its concern to Nepalese authorities over many a bilateral issue recently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Nepalese Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) India`s relations with Nepal have been close and are reflected in the historical, geographical, cultural and linguistic links between the two nations. Government of India and His Majesty`s Government of Nepal remain in regular touch through a number of bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management, High Level Task Force, Commerce Secretary level Inter-Governmental Committee Meeting, Home Secretary level talks,Director General level Talks on Customs Cooperation etc. These fora provide an appropriate platform to review the entire gamut of bilateral issues. In recent months, a number of meetings were held viz. the Commerce Secretary Level Inter-Governmental Committee meeting was held from December 9-11, 1999 in New Delhi, which enabled both sides to review the bilateral trade relations and ensure smooth implementation of the India-Nepal treaty of Trade and India-Nepal Treaty of Transit.The 22nd Meeting of the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee (JTC) was held in Kathmandu from 2-4 November, 1999.At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the progress in the implementation of the decisions taken at the 21st JTC Meeting and finalised the work plan for expeditious completion of reidentification of the India-Nepal Boundary in a time bound manner. The 4th Director General level talks on Customs Cooperation were held in New Delhi from Dec.1-3, 1999.The two sides reviewed the implementation of decisions taken at the 3rd DG level meeting and agreed to further enhance the ongoing bilateral cooperation to monitor and effectively combat unauthorised trade across the open India-Nepal Border. The Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Border Management was held in Kathmandu from February 1-3, 2000 in Kathmandu. Both sides agreed to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border by terrorists and other criminal elements for activities directed against India.

Besides the regular exchanges enumerated above, the Government of India has taken up the issue of additional measures which Indian Airlines would need to take for the safety of its aircraft, passengers and crew, consistent with ICAO norms and international civil aviation practice, for facilitating the resumption of Indian Airlines flights.